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The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"I don't think the Collector will report on that. He is merely asked to report on the price of firewood."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know whether Government are not prepared to take steps by means of rules to prevent the rise in price of firewood?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"That is a matter to be considered only if the price keeps high."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know whether Government consider that they cannot cheapen the price of fuel by getting railway concession for the time being?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"I am sorry I did not follow the question."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"May I know whether Government considered the question of asking the railway to carry fuel at a concession for the time being and thus lower the price of firewood?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"We have not considered the question."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"Sir, there are two varieties of fuel, what is called general wood and the other, casuarina, and the price of casuarina is going up day by day. Do Government realise that it is their action that is responsible for this sudden rise in price, and so will they be pleased to open Government firewood depots where firewood may be sold to poor people and Government servants at a cheap rate?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"The hon. Member's suggestion will be considered in due course."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"Cannot the railway freight on firewood be reduced?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"I am sorry it is not in my power." (Laughter.)

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO:—"Well, did he try to do anything to lower the price?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—"I understand that as a matter of fact the price of firewood has gone down."

Village Establishments

Allowance to karnams attending taluk offices.

* 1752 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the question of the grant of allowances to the karnams attending taluk offices has been finally settled; and

(b) what the decision is?

A.—(a) & (b) The question has not yet been settled as the financial results of the recent restoration of the village officers have not yet been finally worked out.

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Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know when this question will be settled ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS : —" We cannot give an answer till the final figures are ready."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know when Rs. 7,000 has been fixed as allowance, whether no policy has been laid down on this question of allowance to village karnams ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not follow the question."

The hon. Member did not repeat his question.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether the question will be decided on the amount of money that will remain undisbursed or upon the justice of their case."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" It depends on the justice of the case and also on the fact that the total cost is not exceeded."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether Government are not prepared to make additional allotments for payment of allowances to the karnams ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" No, Sir ; as I explained once before the expenditure incurred already on this item is so large that I don't think any increase is justified."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" When the number of hands serving Government have been increased on account of the reinstatement of hands dispensed with the policy of Government must be that they must pay more as they now get more cash ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" That is exactly so ; and therefore each one must get less."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" Sir seven thousand rupees has been put as allowance in the budget. What is it for ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I suppose it must be allowance for village servants. The allowance to village servants was not taken away."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" To what figure will the amount work up to if the allowance asked for in this question is conceded to the village officers ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" What is asked for. (Laughter.) "

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" The allowance ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" It will depend upon the amount. (Laughter.) "

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" I want to know the exact amount."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" It will depend upon the amount of allowance for each man. (Laughter.) "

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Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" What would be the minimum that the hon. the Revenue Member considers would be necessary for that purpose ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" That is a matter of opinion on which I cannot answer. (Laughter.) "

Mr. R. Nagan Gowda :—" Have the Government considered at least the question of paying these karnams the expenses incurred by them in having to go to taluk offices and dance attendance there ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I have already stated more than once what the limitations are."

Mr. K. R. Karant :—" Apart from the question of allowance may I know whether Government will consider the possibility of giving some relief to village officers seeing that they are made unnecessarily to dance attendance on taluk officors ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Instructions regarding attendance at taluk offices have often been issued."

Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao :—" May I know whether any proposals exist regarding these allowances ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" No."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Are the Government sure that their orders are being carried out ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I could not be certain that any order has been carried out. (Laughter.) Government can only do their best."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" With reference to the limitations may I know whether those limitations are of a statutory character ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Of course, not."

Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" May I know whether there is any obstacle to their coming before this House by way of supplementary grants ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Government have passed the law of restoration on a certain understanding, and they see no reason to depart from that understanding."
to

UNSTARRED QUESTION

Finance

Expenditure on pay of All-India Provincial and other Gazetted officers.

1753 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on pay and special pay of All-India Provincial and other Gazetted officers in each of the years from 1920–21 to 1927–28 ?

A.—A statement [a] is placed on the table.

[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 233 infra.